

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A network access system comprising:
a network access hub communicatively coupled to a global communications network and the network access hub communicatively connectable to a computing device, the network access hub operable to receive an initial set of credentials from a user via the computing device;
an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the network access hub via the global communications network, the authentication engine operable to receive the initial set of credentials of the user from the network access hub and operable to authenticate the initial set of credentials; and
an authorization engine operable to issue the computing device a token indicating a grant of access rights to both transport services and federated data services of third party federated data service providers via the global communications network and the network access hub in response to the authentication of the initial set of credentials, the token operable to authorize access of the user to both the transport services and the federated data services of the third party federated data service providers without the user having to provide the initial set of credentials to re-authenticate with the third party federated service providers.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a short-range wireless transceiver associated with the first network access hub.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the transport services comprise wireless communication via a wireless local area network technology link.
4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the data services comprise a service that provides personalized information based on an identity of the user.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the federated data services include a first federated data service provided by a first third party federated service provider and a second federated data service provided by a second third party federated service provider.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising a federation engine operable to maintain information that indicates members of a service provider federation, the service provider federation comprising the first third party federated service provider and the second third party federated service provider.

7. (Currently amended) A network access method comprising:
receiving a first set of credentials at an authentication engine from an electronic device of a user via a network access hub and a global communications network;
authenticating the received first set of credentials;
authorizing access via an authorization engine to a network transport service and a federated network data service of a third party federated data service provider via the global communications network and the network access hub in response to authenticating the first set of credentials; and
issuing to the electronic device via the authorization engine a token indicating a grant of access rights to a network transport service and to federated network data services of third party federated data service providers via the global communications network and the network access hub.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a request for access to the federated network data service from the electronic device; and
prompting the electronic device to send the first set of credentials.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
requesting that the electronic device cache the token;
receiving a subsequent request for access to a second federated network data service of a
second third party federated data service provider from the electronic device;
recognizing an existence of the token at the electronic device; and
authorizing access to the second federated network data service of the second third party
federated data service provider in response to the subsequent request without the
user having to provide the initial set of credentials to re-authenticate with the
second third party federated service provider.

10. – 12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A network access system comprising:
a plurality of hotspots communicatively coupled to a broad communications network;
an authorization engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network
and operable to issue a token to an electronic device communicatively coupled to
at least a first hotspot of the plurality of hotspots, the token operable as a valid
indicator of access rights to both transport services and federated data services of
third party federated data service providers over the broad communications
network and the at least one of the plurality of hotspots.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the electronic device includes
a cache operable to store the token.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the token is a valid indicator
of access rights to both transport services and data services at a second hotspot of the plurality of
hotspots.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network and operable to receive an initial set of credentials from a user, the authentication engine further operable to compare the initial set of credentials against a maintained set of credentials and to output a valid signal indicating that the user is a valid user; and

a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of information associated with the valid user with a first third party federated data service provider.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network and operable to output a valid signal indicating that a user requesting access is a valid user and entitled to transport and data service access;

a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of at least a portion of valid user information with a first third party federated data service provider, the valid user information to facilitate access to a federated data service without additional sign on operations by the user requesting access.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the data service comprises a unified messaging mailbox.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the transport service comprises access to the broad communication network via at least the first hotspot of the plurality of hotspots.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising:
an authentication engine communicatively coupled to the broad communications network
and operable to output a valid signal indicating that a user requesting access is a
valid user and entitled to transport and data service access; and
a federation engine operable to initiate a sharing of at least a portion of valid user
information with a first third party federated data service provider, the valid user
information to facilitate access to a federated data service without additional sign
on operations by the user requesting access.